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SOCIAL CAPITAL OF FARMERS IN FAYOUM GOVERNORATE

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed basically at achieving the following objectives: developing a quantitative, valid and reliable scale of social capital, identifying the relative importance of sub- dimensions used in measuring the social capital degree, describing the social capital levels in three patterns of different developmental levels of rural communities in Fayoum district, Fayoum governorate, identifying differences in the social capital levels among the three studied types of rural communities, and finally identifying variables affecting the degree of respondents social capital.

The study was conducted on three patterns of different developmental levels of villages in Fayoum district, Fayoum governorate. These villages were: Demo, Monshaet Sakran and Manashy El- Khateeb. A systematic random sample of 243 farmers (representing 10% of total numbers of farmers in the studied villages) were selected to conduct the study. Data were collected through an interviews with respondent farmers using a questionnaire. The statistical analysis tools used in the study were: Spearman Brown, Guttman and Cronback methods to estimate the reliability coefficient of the social capital scale. The construct validity method was utilized to estimate the validity degree of the proposed scale. Frequencies, percentages, arithmetic mean, standard deviation and range were also used to present and describe data. One way analysis of variance and least significant difference test were utilized in determining the differences among the three studied villages according to the respondents' social capital levels. Pearson correlation coefficient, chi square test and Cramer coefficient were used to identify the relationships between the respondents' social capital levels and the studied variables. Finally, the study used stepwise multiple regression analysis to identify the relative importance of sub- dimensions used in measuring the social capital degree and also to identify the most important variables affecting the respondents' social capital levels.

The most important findings were:

- The reliability coefficients of social capital scale were relatively high, these coefficients were: 0.798, 0.783 and 0.807 measuring with Spearman Brown, Guttman and Cronbach methods respectively.

- The construct validity method indicated a high level of validity of the suggested social capital scale.

- The sub- dimensions of social capital scale could be arranged in descending order according to their relative importance as follows: the size of social relationships network, the degree of trust capital, leadership status and organizations' membership.

- The findings of distributing the respondent farmers according to social capital levels showed that about 68.9% of total respondent farmers had a moderate level of social capital.

- The findings of one way analysis of variance test showed that: there was a significant difference between Demo and Manashy El- Khateeb villages according to the social capital level at 0.01 probability level in favor of Manashy El- Khateeb village. There was also a significant difference between Demo and Monshaet Sakran villages according to the social capital level at 0.01 probability level in favor of Monshaet Sakran village. Finally, there was a significant difference between Monshaet Sakran and Manashy El- Khateeb villages according to the social capital level at 0.01 probability level in favor of Manashy El- Khateeb village

- Finally, the findings showed that there were independent four variables contribute in explaining the total variance of social capital level, these variables were: satisfaction of life in the village, occupation, number of years of formal education and family size.